

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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SUBJ: AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING

REF: ABIDJAN 8002

1. THIS IS TO CONTINUE REPORT ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
FUND BOARD MEETING CITED REFTEL. PRIOR TO MEETING
OF BOARD, USAED EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT TO AFDB
PRESIDENT FORDWOR ABOUT GENERAL QUALITY OF APPRAISAL
REPROTS AND INDICATED INTENTION TO ADDRESS THIS POINT
IN THE BOARD. AT THE MEETING, HE CITED EXAMPLES OF
FREQUENT INCONSISTENCIES, TRANSLATION ERRORS,
AND INCVPLETE PROJECT DESCRIPTION OR ECONOMIC
JUSTIFICATION. WHILE PROJECTS PRESENTED FOR BOARD
CONSIDERATION WERE IN THEMSELVES OF HIGH QUALITY,
THE CONDITION OF DOCUMENTATION SEEMED TO INDICATE
THAT MANAGEMENT WAS RUSING TO MEET LENDING TARGETS.
FORDWOR RESPONDED BY INDICATING THAT HE TOO WAS OFTEN
UNHAPPY WITH PROJECT PRESENTATION AND HAD BEEN
PERSONALLY SITTING IN ON LOAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS
TO BRING ADDED EMPHASIS TO THIS AREA OF OPERATIONS.

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HE ADMITTED THAT HE WAS PUSHING HARD TO MEET TARGETS
AND FELT THAT HE HAD IN SOME INSTANCES OVEREXTENDED
THE STAFF, BUT EMPHASIZED HIS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO
STRENGTHEN THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT THROUGHT TRAINING
PROGRAMS AND STAFF ACCESSIONS. USAED ALSO EXPRESSED
CONCERN AS TO WHETHER THE FUND WAS OPERATING ITS
PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES WITHIN STATED GUIDELINES.

FORDWOR AGREED TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF PROCUREMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE IN THE SEPTEMBER 21 BOARD AGENDA.

2. FORDWOR ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO CONVENE A MEETING (DINNER) OF THE SIX POTENTIAL NON-REGIONAL MEMBERS OF THE AFDB IN WASHINGTON ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 29. HE PLANS TO CONDUCT A LARGER MEETING ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL POTENTIAL NON-REGIONAL MEMBERS. FORDWOR CONSIDERS THESE MEETING TO BE AN EXPLORATORY SESSION, AIMED PRINCIPALLY AT IDENTIFYING THE ISSUES. FOLLOWING THE SEPTEMBER MEETINGS HE PLANS TO PRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF DOCUMENTS ADDRESSING ISSUES RAISED IN THE MEETINGS AND PROVIDING INFORMATION ON THE BANK REQUESTED BY THE PARTICIPANTS. IT IS FORDWAR'S INTENTION TO EXPEDITE NON-REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP.) HE HOPES TO HOLD A SECOND MEETING PROBABLY IN RABAT IN MID-NOVEMBER WITH A THIRD IN LONDON IN MID-JANUARY.

3. FORDWOR ALSO ANNOUNCED KEY PERSONNEL CHANGES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE NEXT MONTH. VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION GODWE AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS KERDOUDI WILL TRADE RESPONSIBILITIES AS WILL VICE PRESIDENT FOR POLICY PLANNING KODOCK AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE SOGUNRO.
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IT APPEARS THAT THE GODWE/KERDOUDI SWITCH IS A RESULT OF FORDWOR'S DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE OPERATION AREA. GODWE IS A PROVEN AND AGGRESSIVE ADMINISTRATOR. AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION, GODWE HAD TAKEN ON MANY OF THE "POLITICAL" MISSIONS FOR FORDWOR. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, KERDOUDI WHO IS A GOOD TECHNICIAN WITH CONDIDERABLE PERSONAL CHARM, HAS UNDERTAKEN SOME OF THESE RESPONSIBILITIES. HE IS FROM MOROCCO AND HIS FUNCTIONING IN THIS AREA WOULD RAISE THE ARAB PROFILE IN THE BANK, WHICH HAS DECLINED CONSIDERABLY SINCE FORDWOR TOOK OFFICE. THE RATIONALE FOR THE SOGUNRO/KODOCK SWITCH IS LESS APPARENT. THE BASIS FOR THIS SWTICH I PROBABLY A RESULT OF THE POSSIBLE (UNANNOUNCED AS YET) DEPARTURE OF THE DIRECTOR OF POLICY PLANNING DEPARTMENT GEDAMU, WHO IS EXTRAORDINARLY COMPETENT AND HOLDS FORDWOR'S COMPLETE CONFIDENCE. KODOCK ON THE OTHER HAND ENJOYS LESS CONFIDENCE AND FORDWOR PROBABLY WANTS TO MOVE A STRONGER VICE PRESIDENT INTO WHAT HE CONSIDERS THIS CRITICAL AREA TO OFFSET THE LOSS OF GEDAMU. THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT HAS TRADITIONALLY

BEEN AND REMAINS ONE OF THE STRONGEST AREAS OF THE
BANK LARGELY DUE TO THE SIGNIFICANT TALENTS OF
ITS DIRECTOR N'DIAYE.
FRIEDMAN

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